



News Release

For Immediate Release

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West Central Indiana to receive \$691,203 for five new training initiatives

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (June 19, 2006) – West Central Indiana will be awarded a grant from the state for \$691,203 to help prepare local Hoosiers with skills and occupational training for good paying jobs in the region, Ron Stiver, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today.

The grant is part of the Daniels administration's Strategic Skills Initiative, a workforce development program introduced last year.

"On behalf of Governor Mitch Daniels, we are excited to award this grant to help regional leaders launch several new initiatives which target underemployed and dislocated workers, provide skills assessments for several thousand students, and help develop the skills of incumbent workers," Stiver said. "This grant is part of our efforts to better equip our workforce – both current and emerging -- with the skills that are necessary for success in the new economy."

The grant will be used to fund five specific initiatives:

- *Maintenance Training for Underemployed and Dislocated Workers* -- The region will provide 16 underemployed and dislocated workers with scholarships for training at Ivy Tech Community College Terre Haute's two-year maintenance technician program. Local officials have projected that the region will experience a shortage in general maintenance repair workers and machinery maintenance workers.
- *Skills One Training Solution* -- Another initiative also aimed at the region's underemployed and unemployed workers will provide 108 workers with Skills One Training at Ivy Tech Community College in Terre Haute. This program will develop the skills necessary for success in maintenance and for the chemical technician position, one of the emerging occupations in the region's biotechnology and biomanufacturing industries. Students will receive six hours of college credit, WorkKeys certificates, and a Skills One certificate. The region projects that 72 students completing the training will obtain employment in shortage occupations.

- *Student Readiness Solution* -- To better prepare the emerging workforce, 5,000 junior and senior high school students will receive WorkKeys assessments. WorkKeys is a job skills assessment system measuring “real world” skills that employers believe are critical to job success. The assessments measure abilities in key areas of communication, problem solving and interpersonal skills, and enable educators, individuals and employers to identify skill gaps and guide training and education decisions to improve skills.
- *Youth Manufacturing Program* – The region will engage 50 youth in a 12-month manufacturing career program. Participants will explore the manufacturing and manufacturing maintenance areas. In addition, ten students will be selected for a one-week intensive camp in metal fabrication/forming. The goal of this effort is to build career awareness among the region’s emerging workforce regarding high wage career opportunities in advanced manufacturing.
- *Soft Skills Solution* – Ivy Tech Community College in Terre Haute will provide a basic skills training program for incumbent workers. The program aims to build skills in the areas of communication, team building, stress management, conflict resolution, understanding, appreciation of differences and leadership. One hundred existing workers will undergo this training program.

The state’s Strategic Skills Initiative seeks to identify critical occupational and skill shortages and their causes throughout the state, and then fund grants to local consortia to develop solutions that address the shortages. Last year, a grant of \$244,346 was awarded to the region for research and identification of the occupations, industries and skills projected to be in short supply. Today’s grant provides the region with funds to build on that research through specific projects which address those shortages.

The grant has been awarded to the new regional workforce board on behalf of a consortium of workforce and economic development officials from the state’s economic growth Region 7. The region includes Vermillion, Vigo, Sullivan, Parke, Clay, and Putnam counties.

The Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with Indiana’s 26 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Strategic Skills Initiative

Economic Development Region 7



Mitch Daniels, Governor
Ron Stiver, Commissioner
June 2006

About SSI

Governor Daniels' \$23 million Strategic Skills (SSI) Initiative aims to identify and alleviate job and skill shortages. The program will be carried out in Indiana's 11 economic regions through an ongoing process of identifying future shortages, determining the cause of those shortages, and developing solutions. Ultimately SSI will create jobs and increase personal income for Hoosiers.

About Region 7

- Population (July 2005)
222,378
- Labor Force (March 2006)
107,790
- Unemployment (March 2006)
6.4%
- Per Capita Income
\$25,278 in 2004
-Source: www.hoosierdata.in.gov

Counties in Region

- Vermillion
- Vigo
- Sullivan
- Parke
- Clay
- Putnam



INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

Economic Growth Region 7

Economic Growth Region 7 is comprised of six counties. The SSI research & identification allocation awarded in September 2005 was \$244,346. The SSI solutions allocation awarded in June 2006 for Region 7 is \$691,203. Methods used to identify shortages, root causes and develop solutions were: primary and secondary research; interviews; focus group discussions; and, an employer summit.

Key Occupational Shortages

Projection 2005-2007

Maintenance Repair Workers, General	79
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Mechanics	46
Chemical Technicians	40
Electrical and Electronic Repairers/Commercial	26
Maintenance Workers/Machinery	22

Emerging Industries / Occupations

Respiratory Therapists and Respiratory Technicians

Root Causes

- Lack of Training Capacity**
 - Shortage of qualified clinical settings means trainees have to commute outside of region for training facilities
- Employer Recruitment and Retention Practices**
 - Little interest in manufacturing careers due to perception
 - Poor relationships between educators and manufacturers
- Lack of Career Awareness**
 - Lack of awareness of biotech career paths
 - Lack of career education and skills for high-wage positions

Identified Solutions →

Identified Solutions

1.

Solution: *Industrial Maintenance Training Program*Dollars Allotted: *\$175,420*

Solution Description:

The region will offer Ivy Tech Community College's two-year maintenance technician program to the region's underemployed and dislocated populations. The training will give those involved the opportunity to secure high wage, sustainable employment.

Outcomes Proposed:

- 16 Hoosiers trained
- 6 Associates degrees earned
- 4 Maintenance technicians placed in shortage occupations

2.

Solution: *Skills One Training Solution*Dollars Allotted: *\$205,326*

Solution Description:

The Skills One Training Solution will be offered at Ivy Tech Community College and will serve the unemployed and underemployed. The program emphasizes skills needed to move into high skill, high wage, and high demand areas of maintenance. The program also emphasizes skills needed for chemical technicians, one of the regions primary emerging occupations. Students receive six hours college credit, WorkKeys certificates, and a Skills One certificate.

Outcomes Proposed:

- 108 Hoosiers trained
- 108 Skills One Certifications
- 72 students to obtain employment in shortage occupations

3.

Solution: *Emerging Workforce Readiness Solution*Dollars Allotted: *\$62,590*

Solution Description:

Region 7 will utilize WorkKeys to assess 5,000 junior and senior high-school students. The assessments will target specific shortage occupation profiles and career opportunities.

Outcomes Proposed:

- 5,000 students assessed
- 4,400 Gold or Blue WorkKeys Certificates

4.

Solution: *Youth Manufacturing Program*Dollars Allotted: *\$47,667*

Solution Description:

Region 7 will engage 50 Workforce Investment Act eligible youth in a 12-month manufacturing career program. WIA youth will be provided opportunities to explore manufacturing and manufacturing maintenance as a career. Ten students will be selected for a one week intensive camp in metal fabrication/forming.

Outcomes Proposed:

- 50 Hoosier students trained
- 10 students to attend metal fabrication/forming camp
- 3 will obtain manufacturing jobs or will pursue postsecondary education leading to a manufacturing job.

Identified Solutions

5.

Solution: <i>Soft Skills Solution</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$200,200</i>
Solution Description: Region 7 will work with Ivy Tech Community College to provide a basic skills training program for incumbent workers. Participants learn skills in communication, team building, stress management, conflict resolution, understanding, appreciation of differences, and leadership skills.	Outcomes Proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100 Hoosiers trained• 75 completing solution• 15 workers to be placed in higher level positions

Solution Totals

<i>\$691,203</i>
<i>274 Hoosiers trained</i>
<i>90 in shortage occupations</i>
<i>4,400 WorkKeys certifications</i>
<i>108 Skills One certifications</i>
<i>10 degrees earned</i>